

17 Aug 81

Dear Mom and Dad,

I enjoyed my trip to London. The weather was clear and mild which made my daily run around Hyde Park a pleasure. I went to a couple of plays one of which was "Androcles and the Lion" by Shaw presented in the Regent's Park open air theatre. I had a chance to do some shopping and even went back to Queensway for Indian food. The bum with the nasal voice has a new pair of orange slacks and has moved down the street a ways. His old position has been taken by a blind woman with an accordion. It is a little sad that Whiteleys, the big department store, is closing after 100 years. The Wrentham is doing a lot of business, however.

On Friday I took the tube to

Heathrow and flew to Naples where I stayed overnight. On Saturday a military flight took me to Sigonella Sicily where, after a few hour wait, I rode on a coo (carrier onboard delivery) out to the USS Himitz. This is a nuclear-powered ship which is larger, more modern, and more comfortable than the old Forrestal.

I got your letter on Sunday which was fast service and very welcome! The pictures are great to see and Vickie will enjoy them too before I send them back. Diane looks so grown up and I wish I could see and talk to her. Tell her I think she is a clown already and doesn't have to wait to grow up!

I hope you don't have to spend the cabin money on the house because

I hope you can make another trip over here before we leave. I believe, however, that by next July I'll be ready to return to Alexandria and the "luxuries", such as a bathtub, that are taken for granted there.

Good news on our condo. The initial renter retired from the Air Force and left after the first year of the lease. However, a new couple moved right in and ~~are~~^{is} paying \$900/mo. (up from \$800) on a three-year lease with an increase of seven percent per year. So we will have to find a new place to live. I'd like to try Wash. DC to see what it's like.

I read about the avalanches on Mt. Ranier. Before that I had thought it would be fun to make the climb some day.

Well, the shipboard time is passing quickly and in one week we should be back in Naples for ten days. There are some nice port visits scheduled for the rest of this year. The only problem I have is not being able to run enough on the flight deck. Without a daily run I can't get ready for a marathon and guess I will miss out on Boston next year. By all means send a tape. We will make one while in Naples. Say hello to everyone for us.

Love,
Jim